

Claims:

1. A system that activates and deactivates a document validator in response to periods of inactivity, such system comprising:

a magnet within the document validator that is mechanically coupled to a document path of the document validator and that moves from a first position to a second position solely through the mechanical coupling in response to a user accessing the document path to insert a document;

a switch that is activated by magnetism from the magnet in response to the movement of the magnet from the first to the second position; and

a latch that is releasably latched by activation of the switch to activate the document validator.

2. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 1 further comprising a timer that deactivates the latch after a predetermined time period.

3. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 2 wherein the timer further comprises a reset input that accepts reset signals from the switch.

4. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 1 wherein the mechanical coupling between the magnet and document path further comprises a document guide that supports the magnet and that extends into the document path.

5. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 4 wherein the document guide further comprises a rotatable disk assembly.

6. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 5 wherein the rotatable disk assembly further comprises a support shaft with a plurality of disks disposed on the shaft.

7. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 6 further comprising a complementary set of disk assembly guides disposed on opposing ends of the support shaft that allow the disk assembly to move towards and away from the document path.

8. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 7 further comprising a spring that biases the disk assembly towards the document path.

9. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 8 wherein the magnet is disposed on an end of the support shaft of the rotatable disk assembly.

11. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 1 wherein the mechanical coupling between the magnet and document path further comprises a cover that rotates to a position that blocks an entrance to the document path.

12. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 11 wherein the cover further comprises the magnet disposed on a side of the cover and

the switch disposed adjacent the side of the cover between an opened and closed position of the cover.

13. A system that activates and deactivates a document validator in response to periods of inactivity, such system comprising:

a magnet within the document validator that is mechanically coupled to a document within a document path of the document validator or to a cover that covers an entrance to the document path and that moves from a first position to a second position solely through the mechanical coupling in response to opening of the cover or insertion of a document into the document path;

a switch that is activated by magnetism from the magnet in response to the movement of the magnet from the first to the second position; and

a latch that is releasably latched by activation of the switch.

14. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 13 further comprising a timer that deactivates the latch after a predetermined time period.

15. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 14 wherein the timer further comprises a reset input that accepts reset signals from the switch.

16. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 13 wherein the mechanical coupling further comprises a rotatable disk assembly.

17. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 16 wherein the rotatable disk assembly further comprises a support shaft with a plurality of disks disposed on the shaft.

17. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 16 further comprising a complementary set of disk assembly guides disposed on opposing ends of the support shaft that allow the disk assembly to move towards and away from the document path.

18. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 17 further comprising a spring that biases the disk assembly towards the document path.

19. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 18 wherein the magnet is disposed on an end of the support shaft of the rotatable disk assembly.

20. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 13 wherein the mechanical coupling between the magnet and document path further comprises a cover that rotates to a position that blocks an entrance to the document path.

21. The system that activates and deactivates the document validator as in claim 20 wherein the cover further comprises the magnet disposed on a side of the cover and the switch disposed adjacent the side of the cover between an opened and closed position of the cover.

22. A system that activates and deactivates a document validator in response to periods of inactivity, such system comprising:

a magnetic assembly within the document validator that is pushed out of a document path of the document validator by the document in response to insertion of a document into the document path;

a switch that is activated by magnetism from the magnetic assembly in response to insertion of the document into the document path; and

a latch that is releasably latched by activation of the switch.